

**SYNOPSIS OF OBSTETRICS—Fifth Edition—Revised—**Jennings C. Litzenberg, B.Sc., M.D., F.A.C.S., Late Professor Emeritus of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Minneapolis Medical School. Revised by Chas. E. McLennan, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Stanford School of Medicine, San Francisco. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1957. 403 pages, 163 illustrations, including 4 in color, \$6.00.

This compact volume was designed chiefly for medical students but has considerable usefulness for any physician desiring a brief review of clinical obstetrics. In this new fifth edition the sections on maternal and fetal physiology have been rewritten almost completely, and major revisions have been made in many other portions of the book. In fact, scarcely a page has escaped at least minor editing. Quite a number of the outmoded illustrations which appeared in all previous editions have been deleted and replaced by more appropriate figures. The entire text has been reset in a new type face which is infinitely more attractive than that previously used in most Mosby publications.

Because of the effort to compress extensive factual information as well as controversial opinions into a volume which will not overwhelm the undergraduate student, the style of this book is necessarily dogmatic in many places. But the views expressed are generally conservative and are not seriously at variance with those in the major American textbooks, particularly the latest edition of "Williams Obstetrics" (Eastman). Your reviewer recommends the synopsis for the purpose for which it is intended.

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**EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY AND OTHER ESSAYS—I. P. Pavlov.** Philosophical Library, 15 East 40th St., New York 16, N. Y., 1957. 653 pages, \$7.50.

This is a valuable book in that it makes available in English some of the basic thinking and writing of Ivan P. Pavlov who is widely known for his work on the conditioned reflex. The book is a selection of his writings ranging from an autobiographical note to extended treatment of Pavlov's work on digestion, blood circulation, higher nervous activity, sleep and related phenomena. As in all such abstractions, there is an unevenness in the space devoted to various topics, but there is grist in the mill for the internist, physiologist, biologist, psychologist and others. A summary evaluation is provided by Kh. S. Koshtoyants—the difficulty here is that it is too brief and one wishes that more interpretive material had been provided. Strangely enough, no editorial credits are given and it is impossible to tell which of the material has been translated for the first time.

Pavlov's contributions may be briefly summarized as follows:

1. He made basic discoveries of the physiological mechanisms of digestion and blood circulation and related them to nervous activity of the organism based upon stimulation coming from the environment.
2. He developed surgical techniques which minimized the damage to the organism under study and allowed observation under more naturalistic conditions than had heretofore been possible.
3. He was an objectivist and gave great impetus to the experimental method in medicine while at the same time seeking clinical correlates of experimental findings.
4. He vitalized the almost dormant Cartesian concept of the reflex and demonstrated its adaptive qualities in nature. In this way he opened a new field of investigation—the stimulus and learning value of the environment and its central correlation in the brain of the animal.
5. His consistent philosophical position was that all behaviour could be explained on the basis of the soma. This led to a counterreaction and to the eventual understanding of the part emotion plays in such behaviour.

Possibly the most valuable portion of this work is the final section where stenographic notes of Wednesday "seminars" are reported. Here the spirit of Pavlov's scientific outlook is best found. He was highly impatient with Sherrington, Kohler, Claparede and others when they departed in any way from what he considered objectivity. During his lifetime he could see no basis for admitting that anything psychical or emotional went on inside the organism.

Pavlov has made exemplary contributions to the psychophysiology of the learning process, gastrointestinal function, vasomotor mechanisms, the roles of excitation and inhibition in the nervous system, and in several other areas. His dogmatism, however, probably retarded the recognition of individual differences, and thus the function of the personality for four or five decades. It remains also to be proved that conditioned reflexes can become unconditioned (i.e., inborn) reflexes through heredity as Pavlov believed.

The volume contains some new and interesting photographs of Pavlov and his home.

ARTHUR BURTON, Ph.D.

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**THE CIBA COLLECTION OF MEDICAL ILLUSTRATIONS—Volume 3—The Digestive System; Part III—Liver, Biliary Tract and Pancreas—**Prepared by Frank H. Netter, M.D., and Edited by Ernst Oppenheimer, M.D. CIBA Pharmaceutical Products, Inc., Summit, New Jersey, 1957. 165 pages, 133 full-color plates with descriptive text, \$10.50.

No one who has received the CIBA literature has failed to admire the exquisite colored drawings of Frank Netter, M.D. This book is a CIBA Collection of Medical Illustrations on the Digestive System, and is devoted to the Liver, Biliary Tract, and Pancreas.

It is magnificently illustrated in colored drawings of striking clarity and brilliant exposition. Complementing these beautiful illustrations is the text which has been carefully written for clarity of expression and breadth of information. The result is an unusual monograph on diseases of the liver, biliary tract, and pancreas. Embryology, anatomy, physiology, clinical disturbances, pathological physiology, and therapy pass in serial review, and each aspect of the subject is superbly treated.

There is no new information in this book. But, the manner of presentation is such that vast stores of knowledge are quickly and concisely presented in a well organized written and illustrated manner. It is an unusual work and one which can be recommended highly to any physician interested in these disorders. The cost is surprisingly low, considering the quality of the book.

Collaborators are used as each discipline brings its knowledge to bear on the Liver, Biliary Tract, and Pancreas. The collaborators include biochemists, physiologists, pathologists, clinicians, but each is complemented by the unparalleled illustrations of Frank Netter.

VICTOR RICHARDS, M.D.

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**ATLAS OF NEUROPATHOLOGY—**Nathan Malamud, M.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, and Neuropathology, University of California, Neuropathologist, Langley Porter Clinic, San Francisco. University of California Press, Berkeley 4, Calif., 1957. 468 pages, \$20.00.

This is a beautifully illustrated book which follows the general plan of a case presentation on one side of the double page and photomicrographs of suitably stained sections illustrating the pathological changes on the other. Reviewers have been critical of the rather sketchy presentation of the clinical picture in the text; this criticism seems unfounded since the work was in no way intended to be a textbook of neurology or even of neuropathology. Supplemented by such a text, the book should be very helpful in the study of neuropathology, and can be recommended highly for this purpose.

HENRY NEWMAN, M.D.